

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1878

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AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0238

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS MZ

SUBJ: GEP PARACHUTE DROP AT DONDO

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES A-36, MARCH 16

1. ON APRIL 7, GOVERNOR GENERAP PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS, COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, AND MANY LUMINARIES INCLUDING MEMBERS OF NEWLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PLUS CONSULAR CORPS ATTENDED A PARACHUTE JUMP, GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY FOR GRUPOS ESPECIAIS (GE) AND GE PARACHUTISTS WHO HAVE JUST FINISHED TRAINING AT DONDO NEAR BEIRA. FEATURE OF PROGRAM WAS MASS JUMP BY ESTIMATED 400 GEPS, CARRIED OUT IN TWO SECTIONS FROM FIVE NORD- ATLAS PLANES EACH. JUMP TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. ENG. JORGE JARDIM, HONORARY CONSUL FOR MALAWI, AND DIRECTOR OF LUSOLITE, WAS FIRST TO JUMP. HIS NINETEEN- YEAR- OLD DAUGHTER CARMO, INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN PARACHUTIST AND FREE- FALL EXPERT, WHO HAS MORE THAN 400 JUMPS TO HER CREDIT, GAVE MASTERFUL EXHIBITION OF PRECISION JUMPING.

2. COMMENT: A) IN CONTRAST TO RATHER LACKLUSTER CEREMONY MARKING END OF TRAINING OF SEVENTH COMMANDO COMPANY AT MONTE- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUEZ LAST FEBRUARY (REFAIR), YESTERDAY' S AFFAIR AT DONDO WAS GLITTERING DISPLAY. HIGH BRASS AND MANY SPECTATORS BRAVED

SCALDING WEATHER TO WATCH PARACHUTE DROP AND LONG CEREMONY AFTERWARDS ON PARADEGROUND, WHERE GEPS AND GES ALL PERFORMED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND IMPRESSIVE SKILL. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED SEVEN NEW GROUPS OF GRADUATING GES PLUS FOUR GROUPS OF GES STILL IN TRAINING, AS WELL AS THREE GROUPS OF GRADUATING GEPS PLUS TWO GROUPS OF GEPS STILL IN TRAINING -- ALMOST A THOUSAND MEN IN ALL. OF 65 COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WHO MARCHED IN PARADE, 13 WERE NON-WHITE. ALL OTHER MARCHERS WERE BLACK.

B) HIGH POINT WAS MASS SWEARING OF OATH IN WHICH ALL NEWLY GRADUATED GES SHOUTED FOLLOWING IN UNISON, PHRASE BY PHRASE: "I SWEAR TO DEFEND MY COUNTRY, MY FAMILY, AND MY COMRADES; TO GIVE ALL MY STRENGTH TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF MY PEOPLE; TO FIGHT AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF ORDER IN ORDER TO HAVE PEACE IN OUR LAND; TO OBEY MY LEADERS; TO DEFEND THE FLAG AND OUR PORTUGUESE FATHERLAND."

C) AS ON PREVIOUS SIMILAR OCCASIONS, AFTER THE CEREMONY OFFICIALS, GUESTS AND SOLDIERS ALIKE MIXED TOGETHER INFORMALLY IN ONE FRIENDLY BUT DISORGANIZED THROG AT MASSIVE BUFFET LUNCHEON. NO SECURITY MEASURES WERE VISIBLE AND NO ARMED GUARDS WITHIN SIGHT, DESPITE FACT THAT GOVERNOR GENERAL, COMMANDING GENERAL, AND OTHER OFFICIALS, WIVES AND CHILDREN WERE WANDERING ABOUT FREELY AMIDST MILLING CROWD.

3. ONE CANNOT BUT BE IMPRESSED BY SINCERITY AND SHEER HARD WORK OF THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTING PORTUGUESE EFFORTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. GOVERNOR GENERAL AND GENERAL DE ARRIAGA SHOWED CONSIDERABLE STAMINA IN REVIEWING TROOPS, HANDING OUT MEDALS, AWARDING OFFICERS' STRIPES, SHAKING HANDS, ETC. FOR TWO HOURS UNDER HOT SUN WITHOUT LOSING COMPOSURE OR OUTWARD GENIALITY. SINCERITY AND PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF HIGH OFFICIALS WAS BROUGHT HOME IN TELLING FASHION WHEN WIFE OF GOVERNOR SOUSA TELLES OF BEIRA DISTRICT PINNED MEDAL ON HER OWN SON (WOUNDED IN ACTION) AND THEN BURST INTO TEARS.

4. THE GE BLACK SPECIAL TROOPS, WHO BY NOW MUST TOTAL SEVERAL THOUSAND, MAY EVENTUALLY BECOME THORN IN SIDE OF PORTUGUESE, BUT FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST THEY ARE GIVING CONVINCING DISPLAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF LOYALTY TO PORTUGUESE CAUSE.
VAN OSS

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